

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1, 2 and 3 cancelled.

4. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber has a degree of plasticity of not less than 60 and not more than 320.

5. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber has a degree of plasticity of not less than 160 and not more than 320.

6. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said pair of members are disposed in such a manner as to be relatively rotatable with respect to each other.

7. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20 wherein at least one of said pair of members has an uneven surface in contact with said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber, and said uneven surface prevents the slippage of said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber in a vicinity of said uneven surface in the relative movement of said pair of members.

8. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said pair of members has, on a surface thereof in contact with said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber, one of a projection and a groove extending in a direction intersecting a direction of the relative movement.

9. (Original) The damper according to claim 8, wherein said surface in contact with said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber includes a cylindrical surface, and one of said projection and said groove extends substantially parallel to a center line of said cylindrical surface.

10. (Original) The damper according to claim 8, wherein said surface in contact with said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber includes one of an annular surface and a disk-like surface, and one of said projection and said groove extends in a radial direction of said one of said annular surface and said disk-like surface.

11. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said pair of members are disposed in such a manner as to be relatively linearly movable with respect to each other.

12. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20 wherein said damper is a damper for an automobile seat, and includes:

a housing serving as said one member and having an arm portion and a housing body integral to said arm portion; and

a gap forming member serving as said other member and accommodated rotatably in said housing body, said gap forming member forming a gap in cooperation with an inner surface of said housing body,

said the silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being disposed in the gap, said damper being adapted to transmit the rotation of said automobile seat to said housing by means

of said arm portion, and said gap forming member being adapted to be fixed to a chassis on which said automobile seat is rotatably installed.

13. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said damper is a damper for an automobile seat, and includes:

a housing serving as said one member and having an arm portion and a housing body integral to said arm portion; and

a gap forming member serving as said other member and accommodated rotatably in said housing body, said gap forming member forming a gap in cooperation with an inner surface of said housing body,

said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being disposed in the gap, said housing being adapted to be fixed by means of said arm portion to a chassis on which said automobile seat is rotatably installed, and said damper being adapted to transmit the rotation of said automobile seat to said gap forming member.

14. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said damper is a damper for an automobile seat, and includes:

a housing serving as said one member and having a collar portion and a housing body integral to said collar portion; and

a gap forming member serving as said other member and accommodated rotatably in said housing body, said gap forming member forming a gap in cooperation with an inner surface of said housing body,

said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being disposed in the gap, said damper being adapted to transmit the rotation of said automobile seat to said housing by means of said collar portion, and said gap forming member being adapted to be fixed to a chassis on which said automobile seat is rotatably installed.

15. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 20, wherein said damper is a damper for an automobile seat, and includes:

a housing serving as said one member and having a collar portion and a housing body integral to said collar portion; and

a gap forming member serving as said other member and accommodated rotatably in said housing body, said gap forming member forming a gap in cooperation with an inner surface of said housing body,

said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being disposed in the gap, said housing being adapted to be fixed by means of said collar portion to a chassis on which said automobile seat is rotatably installed, and said damper being adapted to transmit the rotation of said automobile seat to said gap forming member.

16. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 12, wherein said housing body has a plurality of concentric arcuate projections, and said gap forming member has a plurality of concentric hollow cylindrical recessed portions in which said arcuate projections of said housing body are respectively disposed with the gap therebetween.

17. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 12, wherein a slit extending radially and communicating with the gap is formed in said gap forming member.

18. (Previously presented) An automobile seat comprising:

said damper for an automobile seat according to claim 12; and

a seat provided rotatably on said automobile chassis,

the rotation of said seat being transmitted to one of said housing and said gap forming member, and another one of said housing and said gap forming member being fixed to said chassis.

19. (Previously presented) The automobile seat according to claim 18, wherein a backrest is rotatably provided on said seat.

Add the following new claims:

20. (Currently amended) A damper comprising:

a pair of members disposed in such a manner as to be movable relative to one another,

and

silicone-based unvulcanized rubber interposed between said pair of members, said

silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being in contact with each surface of said pair of members,

~~without being bonded thereto,~~ said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being plastically-

deformed when said pair of members are moved relative to one another and having a degree of plasticity of not less than 30 and not more than 420.

21. (Currently amended) A damper comprising:

a pair of members disposed in such a manner as to be movable relative to one another,

and

silicone-based unvulcanized rubber interposed between said pair of members, said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being in contact with each surface of said pair of members ~~without being bonded to the same~~, said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being plastically-deformed when said pair of members are moved relative to one another, and having a degree of plasticity of not less than 30 and not more than 420 whereby relative moving energy between said pair of members is absorbed through the plastic deformation of said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber.

22. (Currently amended) A damper for an automobile seat mounted on a automobile chassis so as to be rotatably about a shaft with an engaging tip portion, comprising:

a housing having a housing body, one of an arm portion and a collar portion ~~integral~~ united to said housing body, said housing body including a hollow cylindrical member to which said one of the arm portion and the collar portion is ~~integral~~ united, a closure portion which closes one end face of said hollow cylindrical member, and an arcuate projection projecting axially from an inner surface of the closure portion to define a central recessed portion ~~and a concentric recessed portion~~, said one of the arm portion and the collar portion being adapted to be fixed to one of said automobile seat and said automobile chassis;

a gap forming member accommodated rotatably in said hollow cylindrical member of said housing body for forming a gap in association with an inner surface of said housing body, said gap forming member including a central projection fitted in said central recessed portion so as to be rotatable relative to said arcuate projection, a hollow cylindrical projection axially extending ~~extending axially and disposed in said concentric recessed portion~~ to form said gap in cooperation with said arcuate projection, and a hole portion into which said engaging tip portion

of said shaft is inserted to engage with said gap forming member, whereby said gap forming member is rotated relative to said housing body by rotation of said shaft relative to said one of said automobile seat and said chassis; and

silicone-based unvulcanized rubber disposed in said gap, said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being in contact with each surface of said arcuate projection, said hollow cylindrical projection and said hollow cylindrical member, ~~without being bonded~~

~~to the same~~, said silicone-based unvulcanized rubber being plastically-deformed when said gap forming member is rotated relative to said housing body, and having a degree of plasticity of not less than 30 and not more than 420.

23. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 22, wherein said housing body has at least one surface of the closure portion to define a plurality of concentric recessed portions, and said gap forming member has a plurality of concentric hollow cylindrical portions each extending axially and disposed in said corresponding concentric recessed portion to form said gap.

24. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 22, wherein said gap forming member has a slit extending radially and communicating with the gap.

25. (Previously presented) The damper according to claim 22, wherein said gap forming member is threadedly engaged with said housing body to move axially relative to said housing body when said gap forming member is rotated relative to said housing body by rotation of said shaft relative to said one of said automobile seat and said chassis.